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CIA clears up 'link' to LANL

LOS ALAMOS — CIA Director William J. Casey was referring to the U.S. government and not the CIA when he discussed in a speech a cooperative effort with Los Alamos National Laboratory on a Central American project, the agency said Wednesday.

The New York Times on Sunday paraphrased Casey as saying the CIA, in conjunction with Los Alamos National Laboratory, is designing a "pilot resource-assistance program" to help Central American nations. Casey was speaking at the Center for the Study of the



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Presidency in Atlanta on new ways for the West to reduce Soviet influence in the Third World.

Lab officials have denied the lab and the CIA are working together on the program. CIA spokeswoman Sharon Foster, in a telephone interview from Washington, told a reporter for a Los Alamos newspaper Wednesday that it all boiled down to what Casey meant when he used the word "we."

Foster said when Casey used the word we in talking about the lab, "the director meant the U.S. government" and not the CIA.